

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00771 301718Z

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 AID-01 SS-07 NSC-06 /026 W

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R 301619Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6732

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP: (BIAGGI, MARIO), EI

SUBJECT: CODEL BIAGGI

REF: DUBLIN 756, & 747

1. CONGRESSMAN BIAGGI CALLED ON EMBASSY FOR BRIEF TALK MORNING APRIL 29. HE WAS BROUGHT TO EMBASSY AND PICKED UP AFTER HIS VISIT BY RUAIRI O BRADAIGH, PRESIDENT OF PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN. ONLY THE CONGRESSMAN, HOWEVER, PARTICIPATED IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFFS. OFFICERS RECEIVING HIM WERE CHARGE', CONSUL, POLITICAL OFFICER, AND SINGER, CONSUL IN BELFAST, WHO HAD MADE TRIP TO DUBLIN AT CONGRESSMAN'S REQUEST.

2. CONGRESSMAN OPENED THE CONVERSATION BY ASKING FOR CLARIFICATION OF U.S. POLICY IN VISA REVOCATION CASES CONCERNING SINN FEIN IRA MEMBERS. CHARGE' EXPLAINED THAT POLICY WAS MADE AND DECISIONS TAKEN ON INDIVIDUAL CASES IN WASHINGTON, SO THAT, MUCH AS WE WOULD LIKE TO BE HELPFUL TO CONGRESSMAN, HE WOULD HAVE TO PURSUE HIS QUESTION THERE. CONGRESSMAN THEN ASKED SPECIFICALLY ONLY ABOUT THE LOUGHRAN VISA CASE, INDICATING IN PASSING THAT HE HAD BEEN TALKING TO LOUGHRAN BEFORE COMING TO EMBASSY. SINGER FOLLOWING ON CHARGE'S REMARKS, SAID THAT THIS WAS A CASE OF THE TYPE WHICH REQUIRED DECISION FROM THE DEPARTMENT AND THAT CONGEN BELFAST DID NOT, IN FACT,

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PAGE 02 DUBLIN 00771 301718Z

HAVE FULL INFORMATION ON THE CASE. CONGRESSMAN DID NOT

RAISE ANY OTHER VISA QUESTIONS.

3. WE THEN HAD SLIGHTLY LONGER DISCUSSION ON GENERAL NI SITUATION AND ON ROLE OF TERRORIST GROUPS ON BOTH PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC SIDES. GROUND COVERED WAS FAIRLY ROUTINE AND ALL OF IT CONCERNED FACTS WELLKNOWN TO THE DEPARTMENT.

4. WE OFFERED TO ASK FOR APPOINTMENTS FOR CONGRESSMAN TO CALL ON GOI OFFICIALS FOR ADDITIONAL BRIEFING, OR FOR ANY FURTHER APPOINTMENTS HE MIGHT WISH IN DUBLIN. CONGRESSMAN DECLINED, EXPRESSING DISPLEASURE WITH IRISH REFUSAL TO LET HIM VISIT PORTLAOISE PRISON. WE ALSO OFFERED EMBASSY CAR FOR RETURN TRIP TO AIRPORT, BUT CONGRESSMAN STATED THAT HE DID NOT REQUIRE ASSISTANCE.

5. CODEL VISIT HAS ATTRACTED SOME UNFAVORABLE PRESS COVERAGE. FIRST LETTER IN IRISH TIMES TODAY, APRIL 30, IF FROM MINISTER CONOR CRUISE-O'BRIEN, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM TRIP TO U.S. HE QUOTES A CLAIM BY "IRISH NATIONAL CAUCUS" IN U.S. TO EFFECT THAT GOI POLICE ARE ENGAGED IN SECTARIAN ASSASSINATIONS IN NI. MINISTER THEN NOTES THAT CAUCUS ARRANGED CODEL TRIP AND SUGGEST THAT CONGRESSMAN HAS BEEN "TOTALLY DECEIVED" BY THE ORGANIZATION. SINCE CONGRESSMAN IS GIVING A PRESS CONFERENCE APPARENTLY SPONSORED BY SINN FEIN LATER TODAY, MORE PUBLICITY CAN BE EXPECTED TOMORROW. RENDAHL

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